

Reiter, 3,200 relay win regional titles;
Eastwood leads team standings

By Kevin Gordon - May 25th, 2017

TIFFIN — Eastwood's boys track and field team is striving to win a Division III regional championship.

The Eagles moved closer to their goal Wednesday night.

Ryan Reiter won the long jump, Jacob Montag finished second in the pole vault, and the Eagles' 3,200 relay team won to highlight an impressive first day for Eastwood during the regional at Frost-Kalnow Stadium.

Reiter, Montag and the 3,200 relay team of Logan Baugher, Billy Barker, Alex Boyer and Jack Chappuies were rewarded with a trip to the state meet for finishing in the top four of their respective events.

The top four finishers in each event at the regional qualified for the state meet June 2-3 at Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Stadium.

The Eagles scored 40 points to lead the regional, while Liberty Center was second with 14 and Woodmore was third with 12.

Eastwood's 400, 800 and 1,600 relay teams all qualified for the finals, while Kenneth Cassaubon advanced to the finals of the 110 hurdles, and Isaac Emhaiser qualified for the finals of the 200.

The regional concludes Friday. The high jump and the discus start at 5 p.m., followed by the remainder of the running finals at 6 p.m.

"I'm very pleased," Eastwood coach Brian Sabo said.

The Eagles are shooting for their fifth straight regional championship. They won the Tiffin regional last season with 48 points after winning regional titles in Division II the previous three seasons.

Eastwood entered Wednesday coming off a dominant performance in the district meet at Gibsonburg High School. The Eagles won their fourth straight and 11th district title in the last 13 seasons by scoring 174 points and advancing to the regional in 15 events.

"You're always a little concerned that nothing too drastic happens," Sabo said. "The goal tonight is to make finals or qualify for state, if you're in a final. We had a lot of very positive things happen."

Baugher, Barker, Boyer and Chappuies ran well, posting a time of 8:12.50 — the third-fastest in Division III this season. The Eagles won easily, although they only had a one-second margin at the finish over Montpelier and a 3.81 second margin over third-place Riverdale.

Eastwood's time was a season-best by 15 seconds, lowering its previous best of 8:27.51. The Eagles didn't run well in the district meet, even though they won in 8:30.17, but Barker missed that race with bronchitis.

All four Eagles had a season-best split during the regional race, Sabo said.

"We talked that last week wasn't our race, that's not who we are," Sabo said. "We pretty much said if we get beat and don't make it, then we don't make it. We said we're going to go out hard and see what happens."

The Eagles qualified for state in the 3,200 relay for the fourth straight season, and Baugher has been on all four teams. Barker, a junior, ran on the team last season.

Boyer, a junior, and Chappuies, a sophomore, are first-time state qualifiers.

The Eagles were sixth in the state last season in 8:11.11, just over a second faster than Wednesday's regional time. Eastwood finished third in 2015 and second in 2014.

Reiter won the long jump with a distance of 22-½, only one-quarter of an inch shy of his career-best earlier this season. The jump came on the senior's second attempt during the preliminaries.

"Everything was perfect on that jump," said Reiter, whose season-best ranks fourth in Division III this season. "My goal was to get to state. I wanted to get good jumps in and give myself a chance to get out."

Reiter qualified for state in the long jump for the second straight season. He was 14th last season with a distance of 19-9¼.

"I'm really excited to get back to state, especially after I didn't do so well last year," Reiter said. "I want to redeem myself and show who I really am."

Eastwood freshman Jaden Rayford was sixth in the long jump, 20-11.

Montag was the runnerup to Seneca East's Garrick Manning in the pole vault. Both are seniors.

Manning was the winner at 15-2, while Montag was second at 14-6 after missing all three of his attempts at 15-2. Manning then attempted 15-7¼ in an attempt to break the regional record of 15-7 set in 2007, but he was unsuccessful.

Eastwood senior Tyler Brenot was sixth 12-10.

The vaulters battled rainy and windy conditions.

“For the conditions, I vaulted pretty well,” Montag said. “I’m disappointed I didn’t make the vault at 15-2 because I had the height on it. But, overall, I’m pretty happy because I’m going to state.”

Montag is headed to state after finishing eighth in the regional last season with a height of 13-6.

“I feel like everything is coming together,” Montag said. “The way last season ended was disappointing, and I used it as motivation this season. I felt like state was a place I should be, and I worked hard to make it.”

Manning’s 15-7 vault is the best in the state this season, while Newcomerstown’s Ryan Stevens is second at 15-1, and Montag is third at 15-0.

“Now, it’s back to the grind,” Montag said. “We have to work even harder because we’re not shooting for second at state. We’re shooting for number one.”

The 1,600 relay team of Baugher, Montag, Reiter and Emahiser had a time of 3:29.01, the second-fastest of the eight finalists.

Eastwood is the defending state champion in the event, with Baugher, Reiter and Emahiser returning from last season. The Eagles also are shooting to win the event for the third time in the last four seasons. They won in 2014 and were seventh in 2015.

The 800 and 400 relay teams both posted the fastest semifinal time.

The 800 team of junior Cooper Comes, Reiter, Brenot and Emahiser had a time of 1:31.48.

The 400 team of Brenot, Emahiser, Reiter and senior Landon Zura had a time of 43.68. The Eagles were seventh at state last season, posting a time of 44.02. Emahiser, Reiter and Brenot return from that team.

Cassaubon, a senior, had the second-fastest time in the 110 hurdles, 15.52. Emahiser, a junior, was seventh-fastest in the 200 semifinals, 23.09.

“Everyone is sitting in good lanes,” Sabo said. “Everyone is really ready to go battle and show everyone what we can do. We were a little conservative today on some things, which is OK, You make finals today. Then on Friday, you go after it. They have a look. I’m pretty excited about that.”

In the discus, Eastwood junior Dalton Andrews was fifth at 155-9 and sophomore Erik Fertig was seventh at 153-1.

The discus was a mini state meet with outstanding competition. A throw of 152-3 or better was needed to earn one of the nine spots in the finals. The top eight finishers scored team points.

“We’re going to state in quite a few events, and those who aren’t were right in there in the battle, went after it and left no doubts,” Sabo said. “We have a lot of people in the finals, and we’re sitting good. Other guys who didn’t make the finals, they’re young, and it’s a great experience for them to be in the regional already. I’m really pleased with how things went.”

REGIONAL TRACK AND FIELD

DIVISION III

BOYS

WEDNESDAY

AT TIFFIN COLUMBIAN/FROST-KALNOW STADIUM

TOP FIVE TEAMS

1) Eastwood, 40; 2) Liberty Center, 14; 3) Woodmore, 12; 4) Riverdale, 11; 5) Seneca East, 10.

FINALS

(The top four in each event qualified for the state meet June 2-3 at Ohio State University’s Jesse Owens Stadium)

Discus — 5) Dalton Andrews, 155-9; 7) Erik Fertig, 153-1.

Long jump — 1) Ryan Reiter, 22-½; 6) Jaden Rayford, 20-11.

Pole vault — 2) Jacob Montag, 14-6; 6) Tyler Brenot, 12-10.

3,200 relay — 1) Logan Baugher, Billy Barker, Alex Boyer and Jack Chappuies, 8:12.50.

SEMIFINALS

(The top two finishers in each heat and the next four fastest times, regardless of heat, qualify for the finals; Eastwood’s finals qualifiers are denoted with a ‘q’)

110 hurdles — 2) q-Kenneth Cassaubon, 15.52; 11) Logan Wendt, 16.18.

100 — 9) Landon Zura, 11.46.

800 relay — 1) q-Cooper Comes, Reiter, Brenot and Isaac Emahiser, 1:31.48.

400 relay — 1) q-Brenot, Emahiser, Reiter and Zura, 43.68.

400 — 9) Boyer, 53.11.

300 hurdles — 11) Wendt 43.52.

200 — 7) q-Emahiser, 23.09.

1,600 relay — 2) q-Baugher, Montag, Reiter and Emahiser, 3:29.01.